

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 5-7, and 15-20 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 4, and 8-14 being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them.

The March 28, 2005 Office Action

The March 28, 2005 Office Action indicates that Claims 7 and 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have placed Claims 7 and 19 in independent form as the Office Action suggests, and thus it is believed that Claims 7 and 19 and all their dependent claims are allowable. Claims 1, 4, and 8-14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 2-3, 5-6, and 15-18 have been amended to depend from independent Claim 7 or independent Claim 19. Accordingly, all pending claims are believed to be allowable, so that allowance of the application is in order.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

The March 28, 2005 Office Action did not include an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the "Supplemental IDS" filed on October 26, 2004. Applicants append a copy of the Supplemental IDS and Form PTO-1449 (along with a copy of the PTO-date-stamped post card confirming the early filing of the Supplemental IDS and Form PTO-1449).

Applicants request that the examiner initial the Form PTO-1449, and return a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next official communication. Because no Office Action on the merits had been sent as of October 26, 2004, no fee is required for consideration of the Supplemental IDS.

Change of Correspondence Address; New Associate Attorney


A "Change of Correspondence Address" is being filed herewith. It is requested that the examiner verify that the address information has been entered into the PTO mailing system so that future communications will be mailed to the correct address. (The "Revocation of Associate Power and Appointment of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address" filed on November 2, 2005 was apparently disregarded by the PTO, since the subsequent (March 28, 2005) Office Action was sent to the previous law firm's address.)

Conclusion

All objections and rejections have been complied with, properly traversed, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should any questions arise, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Date: June 13, 2005
For Customer No. 26,652
Telephone: 301.464.0431

Raymond C. Glenn
Registration No. 32,413